



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 1, 2011

H.R. 1505

National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011

H.R. 1505 would waive the requirement that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) comply with certain federal laws when conducting border security activities on federal lands within 100 miles of U.S. land borders. The bill also would eliminate the requirement that DHS consult with the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) before carrying out such activities. Based on information from the affected agencies, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would not have a significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 1505 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Under current law, DHS has the authority to waive various environmental and land management laws when conducting certain activities related to border security. The bill would provide a broad waiver of those laws for all such activities conducted within 100 miles of U.S. land borders and would eliminate the requirement that DHS consult with DOI and USDA before carrying out those activities. The provisions of the legislation would expire five years after enactment.

H.R. 1505 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.